THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Unified Command to Combat the insurgents in the North-East Region

*556. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in his recent visit to the North-East Region, he had declared a unified command to combat insurgents in the North-East Region;

(b) if so, whether the command is constituted on a State-wise or regional basis; and

(c) by when it will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a 3-tier coordinating mechanism for counter insurgency operations, part of which is called a Unified Headquarters, exists for Assam with effect from January 20, 1997.

Flaws in Licence Fee structures of Telecom Sector

*557. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have pointed out any flaws in the Licence Fee structure of the Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Some individuals have been airing their views in various forums by stating that on account of high cost of operations including high licence fee, the projects of Basic Telephone Service are likely to be non-prfitable. The Licence fee for Basic Services has been quoted by the bidders themselves and has not been fixed by the Government. For other Value Added Services, no such views are known to have been expressed.

Bridge on river Ganges connecting Anupshahar in District Bulandshahr (U.P.)

*558. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation for construction of a bridge over river Ganges connecting Anupshahar in district Bulandshahr and border of district Badayun;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the flyover will ease the movement of people of many districts particularly, Bulandshahr, Badayun, Moradabad, etc. and enhance the economy of these districts as well; and

(d) if so, the decision Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) A representation for construction of said bridge was received by the U.P. Govt. from Distt. Secretary, Rabta Committee, U.P. Upper Kot, Bulandshahar vide his letter dated 31.3.94

(c) The State Govt. of Uttar Pradesh is of the view that it will ease the movement of people.

(d) The Central Govt. is primarily responsible for the development of National Highways. The proposal for the construction of a major bridge over Ganga near Anupshahar being not on a National Highway, its construction is the responsibility of the State Govt. of Uttar Pradesh.

The State Govt. of Uttar Pradesh have

reported that due to paucity of funds the proposal could not be taken up by them.

Appointments on Compassionate Grounds

*559. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jobs given on compassionate grounds by Department of Posts all over the country in 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Department have ignored the claims of people or kin of deceased employees from Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to ensure fairplay to kin of deceased employee of the Department in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA):) (a)

1994-95 —1292
1995-96 —1355
1996-97 —1512

(b) and (c) All cases received are examined on merits within the framework of the guidelines of the Department of Personnel and appropriate decisions taken. This applies equally in the case of kin of deceased postal employees of Andhra Pradesh.

Creation of Separate State of Uttarakhand

*560. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Uttar Pradesh Assembly has passed a resolution recommending to the Centre to form a separate hill State of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon; and

(c) whether Government have also decided to form separate State of Chhattisgarh; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

गढ़वाल जिले के डाकघरों में टेलीफोन सुविधा

4114. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश के गढ़वाल जिले के पर्वतीय क्षेत्र के बहुत से डाकघरों में टेलीफोन की सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि गढ़वाल जिले के रमाकोट, छिंदवाड़ा, खोलाचौरी डाकघरों में टेलीफोन सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं तथा इन डाकघरों में यह सुविधा कब तक प्रदान करने की संभावना है; और

(घ) गढ़वाल जिले में टेलीफोन नेटवर्क विकसित करने हेतु सरकार द्वारा कौन-कौन से कदम उठाये जाने का विचार है;

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): जी, हां। कुछ डाकघरों में सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं है।

(ख) स्थिति इस प्रकार से है:—

रामकोट	— टेलीफोन सुविधा नहीं है।
छिंदवाड़ा	— टेलीफोन सुविधा नहीं है।
सल्डा	— टेलीफोन नंबर 4518 काम कर रहा है।
सोलाचौरी	— टेलीफोन नंबर 4510 काम कर रहा है।

(ग) सभी डाकघरों में टेलीफोन सुविधा प्रदान करने की कोई योजना नहीं है।

(घ) उत्तर प्रदेश के गढ़वाल जिले में टेलीफोन नेटवर्क का विकास करने के लिए सभी प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। इस वर्ष 12,000 सकल लाइनों की वृद्धि किए जाने की संभावना है और सीधी एक्सचेंज लाइनों को प्रत्याशित संख्या 7000 है।